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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY : Germany (Soviet Zone)

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SUBJECT : Answers to Specific Questions in Regard to
the Leuna Plant and the Chamber of Technology

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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1.

corrosion materials protection at the Leuna Plant and
in the Soviet Zone

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used a special steel in contact with fuming
nitric acid. It was known as V46A steel, and contained 18
per cent chromium, eight per cent nickel, and two per cent
each of copper and titanium. The carbon content had to be
less than 0.01 per cent. This special steel offered
complete protection against corrosion in the nitric acid
plant.

2.

3.

The most important developments currently in progress at Leuna
are the development of perlon fiber and the reconstruction of
the urea and nitric acid plants. The perlon fiber project is
under the supervision of Dr (fnu) Deiters, a very capable
chemist with a great deal of experience. The urea plant is
being rebuilt under the guidance of Dr (fnu) Frick, an expert

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in his field and a competent chemist. The reconstruction of the nitric acid plant is supervised by three expert chemists - Drs (fnu) Wilfroth, (fnu) Lutz and (fnu) Moritz.

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Several special projects are sponsored by the Soviets, but it is not always easy to ascertain their military implications. Such projects are:

- (a) The development of materials for lacquers and paints, especially black and red iron oxide. To date, the production of oxides has yielded small quantities of high quality oxides, but impractical for use as paint pigments because of the high cost.
- (b) The use of alkydals (trade name of an I G Farben alkyd resin) as an additive for nitrocellulose.
- (c) The use of methanol as a solvent for nitrocellulose.

These projects are progressing very slowly. The organic department, under the supervision of Drs (fnu) Sundhoff, (fnu) Munzing, (fnu) Bankowski, and (fnu) Bemann, is holding back as much as possible in order to deny the Soviets the benefit of such research.

- (d) Perlon production is solely for Soviet consumption, and this work is the only part of the organic department production program which is pushed by the Soviets.

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The purpose of the Chamber of Technology is to make available the professional experience of the members in all fields of science and technology. It is similar to former professional associations (chemical engineers, electrical engineers, etc) with the one vast difference, that it is a government organization. As such, the government can check on research and production in the various fields of science and technology. The personnel consists of academically trained professional men and employees with technical training. The leading positions in the various boards and committees are held primarily by union bosses who are members of the Communist Party. the Chamber of Technology can provide the necessary coordination for war research, because research projects can be assigned to professional

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such projects are assigned, and that the results of the research are documented by the Chamber of Technology.

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Until the spring of 1951, about 300 tons of methanol were shipped to the USSR monthly, but I do not know the destination of these shipments. At the present time, there are no shipments of alcohol from Leuna to the USSR, to my knowledge.

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[redacted] insecticides are produced by the pharmaceutical department, but I have no other information concerning their production.

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10.

Picric acid is not produced at Leuna. Leuna has supplied the entire Soviet Zone of Germany with sulphur, and I estimate the sulphur output at about 20-40 tons per day.

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11.

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The extent of my information is that Dr Gericke produced oils which retain their fluidity at very low temperatures. To my knowledge, these oils were ethylene-polymerization products, made with chlorine additives. At Leuna, ethylene was made from hydrogenation gases by cracking under an electric arc. The oil was used during World War II for machine guns, and retains its fluidity at temperatures of -30° to -40°C.

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12.

[redacted] the raw materials for perlon are urea, formaldehyde, adipic acid, dicarbonic acids, and diamines in molecularly equal parts. I have no information on intermediate products. /Editors Note: The raw materials for Perlon manufacture listed here are obviously in error.

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